

In Re "Office Action Summary"

Box 2(b) is checked "this action is non-final". However, page 6, paragraph 12 states the action is final.

Undersigned believes the Office Action is non-final in accordance with one of several discussions with the Examiner in March.

In Re rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Paragraph 2: Claim 8 has been amended to provide antecedent basis.

Paragraph 3: The examiner states "knock-down coupling means" is not clearly defined. Undersigned disagrees.

For the Examiner's convenience, included herewith are definitions of "knock-down" taken from two dictionaries. The pages from the dictionaries are also included. These dictionaries agree that "knock-down" conveys meaning: "to take apart (something assembled) typically for convenience of moving, packing, storing, or shipping: disassemble (knocked the table down before boxing it)"; "to be adaptable to being knocked down (a portable device that easily knocks down)"; "something (as a piece of furniture) that can easily be assembled or disassembled"; "that can easily be put together or taken apart (as for convenience of storing or shipping): made up of parts that are readily assembled or disassembled (a piece of furniture)"; "not assembled or only partly assembled: consisting of parts that can be assembled".

Further, undersigned has included a page from the manual of classification. It is clear that the term "knock-down" has sufficient meaning in class 312 to warrant a major subclass (257.1), "knock-down or set up".

Further, "coupling means" has never been in issue – to the knowledge of undersigned – as to its meaning. Please confirm.

Prior Art rejections and 112 rejections

Ironically, the point of patentable novelty coincides precisely with the asserted confusion as to the meaning of “knock-down” coupling means. The Examiner must attach patentable weight to the “knock-down” term and to do so results in patentability.

Every facet of the application talks about modules that can be readily coupled and decoupled. The concept behind the term “knock-down” is well recognized both in dictionaries and the Patent Office classification.

The only relevant area where “knock-down” is not well recognized is in the art of tanning beds, which is the reason for the patent application. Nothing in the prior art negatives patentability of applicant’s knock-down tanning bed.

102 rejection

With respect to the rejection of claims 1, 20, and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Brown (5,383,916), the Examiner is invited to consider the following binding, compelling precedent articulated by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit:

“. . . anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be disclosed in a single prior art reference.” *Akzo N.V. v. United States ITC*, 808 F.2d 1471, 1 U.S.P.Q.2d 1241 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Further, “those elements must either be inherent or disclosed expressly . . .” *Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co.*, 814 F.2d 628, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1987). “. . . and must be arranged as in the claim[s] . . .” *Carella v. Starlight Archery & Pro Line Co.*, 804 F.2d 135, 231 U.S.P.Q. 644 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In addition, ". . . [the] absence from the reference of any claimed element negates anticipation." *Kloster Speedsteel AB v. Crucible Inc.*, 793 F.2d 1565, 230 U.S.P.Q. 81 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

The Examiner is mistaken in characterizing Brown's teachings. Undersigned's arguments accompanying the Amendment filed on November 2, 2001 discussed those points, and are incorporated by reference and highlighted as follows. Unit 13 referred to by the Examiner is not part of Brown's invention, as it designated by Brown as undesirable prior art. Unit 13 is part of a prior art bed with respect to Brown. Unit 13 may be entirely removed from the tanning bed, but servicing the components inside unit 13 requires complete disassembly to access the components inside (col. 2, lines 62-65). Brown's invention is found in his figure 6, not in his figure 1. Neither figure 1 nor figure 6 teaches applicant's invention.

Conversely, the electrical components of the instant invention are readily serviceable without complete disassembly. The ballast units are connected modularly, as noted at page 9 of the specification. The modules may be individually replaced, rather than requiring the entire assembly to be sent for servicing.

Brown clearly does not disclose knock-down coupling means, which, as shown, has definite meaning. Such term is clarified above. Without the teaching of knock-down coupling means, Brown cannot anticipate the present invention.

103 rejections

Undersigned has read the patents to Brown and Kramer et al. ('009) carefully and has failed to uncover the basis by which the Examiner has combined these references to support an obviousness type rejection of claims 2 through 7 and claims 13 through 16. Stated alternatively, there is no teaching within these citations that would warrant the combination of elements proposed by the Examiner and it is respectfully stipulated that applicant's structure would still not be obtained thereby. A specific teaching within one of the references suggesting the combination is required.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2 through 7 and 13 through 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Kramer et al. ('009). Again, the Examiner states that Brown is cited for disclosing a removable unit disposed between his bench supports. Brown does not contain such a unit; it has been eliminated by storing the electrical components inside his bench supports (in his figure 6). Kramer et al. discloses a tanning bed that houses ballasts (32) between the bench supports, however, the ballasts are inside the bottom portion of the tanning bed.

Kramer et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of Brown with respect to the present invention. Kramer has nothing to do with knock-down structure. Brown does not teach ballasts, nor does it utilize knock down coupling means for easy disassembly. While Kramer does use ballasts in his system, they are housed in the bottom portion of the tanning bad and do not allow for ready access and servicing. The tanning bed of Kramer et al. is an awkward, integral monolith, while the tanning bed of the present invention is formed from easy to assemble modules. Kramer et al.'s tanning bed has no provisions whatsoever to be disassembled; the support frame (14, 18, 20) is unitary and prefastened to the lower unit (14) within its skin (Figure 7), while upper unit 16

connects via torsion spring preloaded to 3400 pounds (col. 6). The tanning bed of the present invention allows ready access for servicing and is easy to disassemble and to move. Each of claims 2 through 7 and 13 through 16 includes specific components that are specifically designated as "removable". Neither Brown nor Kramer teaches knock-down coupling means for easy disassembly and moving of the tanning bed, and neither allows, in any way, for ready access for repair and servicing via removable components of the tanning bed. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 10 through 12, 18, 19, and 21 through 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of the Montego Bay brochure (3200 Legend). The deficiencies of Brown as a reference are noted above. Undersigned has reviewed the Montego Bay brochure and is puzzled with regard to the Examiner's statement at page 4 of the Office Action that the top portion of the bed is supported by a "hook". Undersigned can find no hook in any bed in the entire brochure and requests the Examiner's assistance in locating same.

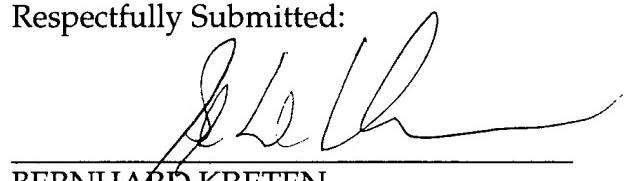
By contrast, the hook of the present invention attaches into a slit on the bottom portion of the bed (see reference number 142 in figure 5), not the top portion. Even if a hook were present in the top portion of the Montego Bay 3200 Legend bed, as the Examiner claims, this has no bearing on whether the claimed structure is obvious. This rejection should be withdrawn.

Simply stated, this invention is clearly patentable as claimed presently, once the Examiner acknowledges and gives weight to the "knock-down" terminology. A personal interview is requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner pass this case to issue. If, upon further consideration, the Examiner believes further issues remain outstanding or new ones have been generated, undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner call undersigned to expeditiously resolve same.

Dated: July 12, 2002

Respectfully Submitted:



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EXHIBIT A

make an L-shaped move of two squares in one row and one square in a perpendicular row over squares that may be occupied
knight vt (13c) : to make a knight of
knight-er-rant \nit'-er-ənt\ n, pl **knight-s-errants** (14c) : a knight traveling in search of adventures in which to exhibit military skill, prowess, and generosity
knight-er-rant-ry \nit'-er-ən-trē\ n, pl **knight-s-errantries** (1654) 1 : the practice or actions of a knight-errant 2 : quixotic conduct
knight-hood \nit'-hūd\ n (13c) 1 : the rank, dignity, or profession of a knight 2 : the qualities befitting a knight : CHIVALRY 3 : knights as a class or body
knightly \nit'-lē\ adj (14c) 1 : of, relating to, or characteristic of a knight 2 : made up of knights — **knight-li-ness** n — **knightly** adv
Knight of Co-lum-bus \kə-ləm-bəs\ n, pl **Knights of Columbus** [Christopher Columbus] (1882) : a member of a benevolent and fraternal society of Roman Catholic men
Knight of Pythias \pi'-thē-əs\ n, pl **Knights of Pythias** (1869) : a member of a secret benevolent and fraternal order
Knight of the Mac-ca-bees \ma-kə-bēz\ n, pl **Knights of the Maccabees** (1922) : a member of a secret benevolent society
Knight Templar n, pl **Knights Templars** or **Knights Templar** (1610) 1 : TEMPLAR 2 : a member of an order of Freemasonry conferring three orders in the York rite
knish \kə-nish\ n [Yiddish, fr. Pol knysz] (1916) : a small round or square of dough stuffed with a filling (as potato) and baked or fried
knit \nit\ vb **knit** or **knit-ted**; **knit-ting** [ME *knitten*, fr. OE *cnytan*; akin to OE *cnotta* knot] vt (bel. 12c) 1 **chiefly dial** : to tie together 2 a : to link firmly or closely (knitted my hands) b : to cause to grow together (time and rest will ~ a fractured bone) c : to contract into wrinkles (knitted her brow) 3 : to form by interlacing yarn or thread in a series of connected loops with needles ~ vi 1 : to make knitted fabrics or objects 2 a : to become compact b : to grow together c : to become drawn together — **knit-ter** n
knit n (1596) : **KNIT STITCH**; also : a knit fabric
knot stitch n (ca. 1885) : a basic knitting stitch usu. made with the yarn at the back of the work by inserting the right needle into the front part of a loop on the left needle from the left side, catching the yarn with the point of the right needle, and bringing it through the first loop to form a new loop — compare **PURL STITCH**
knit-ting n (15c) 1 : the action or method of one that knits 2 : work done or being done by one that knits
knit-wear \nit'-war, -wər\ n (1926) : knitted clothing
knob \nāb\ n [ME *knobbe*; akin to MLG *knubbe* knob] (bef. 12c) 1 a : a rounded protuberance : LUMP b : a small rounded ornament or handle 2 a : a rounded usu. isolated hill or mountain — **knobbed** \nābd\ adj — **knob-be** \nā-bē\ adj
knob-bly \nā-b(-lē)\ adj (1859) : having very small knobs (a ~ mattress)
knob-ker-rie \nāb-,ker-ē\ n [Afrik *knopkierie*, fr. *knop* knob + *kierie* club] (1844) : a short wooden club with a knob at one end used as a missile or in close attack esp. by Zulus of southern Africa
knock \nāk\ vb [ME *knokken*, fr. OE *cnoċian*; akin to MHG *knochen* to press] vi (bef. 12c) 1 : to strike something with a sharp blow 2 : to collide with something 3 a : BUSTLE (heard them ~ing around in the kitchen) b : WANDER (~ed about Europe all summer) 4 a : to make a pounding noise b : to have engine knock 5 : to find fault ~ vi 1 a : (1) to strike sharply (2) to drive, force, or make by or as if by so striking b : to set forcibly in motion with a blow 2 : to cause to collide 3 : to find fault with (always ~ing those in authority) — **knock cold** : KNOCK OUT 2a(1) — **knock dead** : to move strongly esp. to admiration or applause (a comedian who really knocks them dead) — **knock for a loop** 1a : OVERCOME (knocked my opponent for a loop) b : DEMOLISH (knocked our idea for a loop) 2 : DUMBFOUND, AMAZE (the news knocked them for a loop) — **knock one's socks off** : to overwhelm or amaze one (a performance that will knock your socks off) — **knock together** : to make or assemble esp. hurriedly or in a makeshift way (knocked together my own bookcase) — **knock** n (14c) 1 a : a sharp blow, RAP, HIT (a loud ~ on the door) b : a severe misfortune or hardship 2 : SETBACK, REVERSAL 2 a : a pounding noise b : a sharp repetitive metallic noise caused by abnormal ignition in an automobile engine 3 : a harsh and often petty criticism (likes praise but can't stand the ~s)
knock-about \nā-ka-,baūt\ adj (1880) 1 : suitable for rough use (~ clothing) 2 a : being noisy and rough : BOISTEROUS (~ games) b : characterized by boisterous antics and often extravagant, burlesque (~ comedy) 3 of a sailing vessel : having a simplified rig marked by absence of bowsprit and topmast (a ~ sloop) — **knockabout** n
knock back vt (ca. 1931) : DRINK, SWALLOW; specif. : to toss down (an alcoholic beverage)
knock-down \nāk-,daun\ adj (1690) 1 : having such force as to strike down or overwhelm (a bewildering assortment of ~ arguments —J. W. Krutch) 2 : that can easily be assembled or disassembled (a ~ table) 3 **chiefly Brit** : extremely low : REDUCED (~ prices)
knockdown n (1809) 1 : the action of knocking down 2 : something (as a blow) that strikes down or overwhelms 3 : something (as a piece of furniture) that can be easily assembled or disassembled
knock down \nādān\ vt (15c) 1 : to strike to the ground with or as if with a sharp blow : FELL 2 : to dispose of (an item) to a bidder at an auction sale 3 : to take apart : DISASSEMBLE 4 : to receive as income or salary : EARN (positions where they were able to knock down good money —*Infantry Jour.*) 5 : REDUCE
knock-down-drag-out or **knock-down-and-drag-out** adj (1834) : marked by extreme violence or bitterness and by the showing of no mercy (~ political debates) — **knock-down-drag-out** n
knock-er \nā-kər\ n (14c) 1 : one that knocks: as a metal ring, bar, or hammer hinged to a door for use in knocking 2 : a persistently pessimistic critic 2 : BREAST — usu. in pl; often considered vulgar
knock-knee \nāk'-nē, -nē\ n (1879) : a condition in which the legs curve inward at the knees — **knock-kneed** \nādē\ adj
knock-off \nāk'-ōf\ n (1966) : a copy that sells for less than the original; broadly : a copy or imitation of someone or something popular
knock off vi (1649) : to stop doing something ~ vi 1 : to do hurriedly or routinely (knocked off one painting after another) 2 : dis-

CONTINUE, STOP (knocked off work at five) 3 : DEPREDATE, men... on mercenary grounds —Lewis Baker^b b : to knock off each center of rebellion 5 : ROB (knocked off banks) 6 : to make a knockoff of : COPY, IMITATE (knock-off dress designs)

knock-out \nāk'-aut\ n (1887) 1 a : the act of defeating a boxer when one boxer has been knocked down and resume boxing within a specified time (2) : TECHNIQUE, STRIKE, PUNCH (a knockout punch) 2 : something striking, appealing, or attractive — **knockout adj**
knock out vt (1856) 1 : to produce roughly or hastily, defeat (a boxing opponent) by a knockout (2) : to make inoperative (the drug knocked him out) b : to make inoperative (the drug was knocked out by the storm) c : to get rid of (knocked out illegal gambling) 3 : to tire out : exhaust (knocked themselves out with work) 4 : to cause (an opponent) removed from a baseball game by a batting rally

knockout drops n pl (1895) : drops of a solution of a drug (hydrate) put into a drink to produce unconsciousness or death

knock over vt (ca. 1814) 1 a : to strike to the ground

(2) : OVERWHELM (was knocked over by the news)

(knocked over every difficulty) 2 a : STEAL: esp. HIJACK (knocked over a truckload of merchandise —J. B. Martin) b : ROB (knocked over a bank)

knock up vt (1663) 1 : ROUSE, SUMMON 2 : to make

sometimes considered vulgar

knock-wurst \nāk-,wurst\ n, also, -vür(st), sometimes -vürst\ n (1929) : a short thick heavily seasoned sausage

knoll \nōl\ n [ME *knol*; fr. OE *cnoll*; akin to ON *knoll* mounds] (bef. 12c) : a small rounded hill : MOUND

knoll vb [ME, prob. alter. of *knellen* to knell] (15c) : to call

knob — **knapped** \nāpt\ adj

knott \nāt\ n [ME, fr. OE *cnotta*; akin to OHG *knoto* knot] (bef. 12c) 1 a : an interlacement of the parts of one or more flexible bodies forming a lump or knob b : the lump or knob so formed c : a tight constriction or the sense of constriction (my stomach was all in ~s) 2 : something hard to solve : PROBLEM (a matter full of legal ~s) 3 : a bond of union; esp. : the marriage bond 4 a : a protuberant lump or swelling in tissue (~ in a gland) b : the base of a woody branch enclosed in the stem from which it arises; also : its section in lumber 5 : a cluster of persons or things : GROUP 6 : an ornamental Bow of ribbon : COCKADE 7 a : a division of the log's line serving to measure a ship's speed b : (1) one nautical mile per hour (2) : one nautical mile — not used technically

knott vb **knot-ted**; **knott-ing** vt (1547) 1 : to tie in or with a knot : form knots in 2 : to unite closely or intricately : ENTANGLE 3 : TIE 4b (knotted the score) ~ vi 1 : to form knots — **knott-er** n

knot n, pl **knots** or **knot** [ME *knot*] : either of two sandpipers (*Calidris canutus* and *C. tenuirostris*) that breed in the Arctic and winter in temperate or warm parts of the New and Old World

knot garden n (1519) : an elaborately designed garden esp. of flowers or herbs

knot-grass \nāt-,grās\ n (1538) 1 : a cosmopolitan weed (*Polygonum aviculare*) of the buckwheat family with jointed stems, prominent sheathing stipules, and minute flowers; **broadly** : any of several congeneric plants 2 : any of several grasses with markedly jointed stems; esp. : JOINT GRASS

knot-hole \nālō\ n (1726) : a hole in a board or tree trunk

knot or branch has come out

knot-ed \nāt-sd\ adj (12c) 1 : tied in or with a knot 2 : having a knot or knots : GNARLED 3 : KNOTTY 4 : ornamented with knots or knot-like features

knotty \nāt-tē\ adj **knot-ti-er**, **-est** (13c) : marked by or full of difficulties and complications as to be likely to be solved (a ~ problem); syn see COMPLEX — **knot-ti-ness** n

knotty pine n (ca. 1898) : pine wood that has a decorative distribution of knots and is used esp. for interior finish

knot-weed \nāt-,wed\ n (1884) : any of several herbs (genus *Polygonum*) of the buckwheat family with leaves and bracts jointed along a very short petiole; **broadly** : POLYGONUM

knout \nāut\, sometimes \nāt\ n [Russ *knut*, of Scand origin; ON *knūtr* knot; akin to OE *cnotta*] (1716) : a whip used for flogging

knout vi

I know \nāl\ vb **knew** \nū\ also **'nyū**; **known** \nōn\; **know-ing** \nōn-iŋ\; **know-nig** \nōn-iŋ\; **know-nū** n [OE *cnawan*; akin to OHG *bichnāan* to recognize, L *gnoscere*, to know]

knock over

knock out

knock up

knock over

knock out

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EXHIBIT

B

CLASS 312 SUPPORT CABINET STRUCTURE

DECEMBER 1996

| | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 204 | SIMULATION, ORNAMENTATION OR WITH SECRET COMPARTMENT | 234.2 | ..Correlated list |
| 205 | EXPANSIBLE | 234.3 | ..On closure |
| 208 | FOR BRUSH, BROOM OR MOP | 234.4 | ..Labels affixed to shelves and/or partitions |
| 207 | .Projecting article handle | 234.5 | ..Labeled movable supports |
| 208.1 | FOR KEY-BOARD WRITING MACHINE (E.G., TYPEWRITER) | 235.1 | WITH STEP |
| 208.2 | .Including work-sheet storing area | 235.2 | WITH SEAT OR REST |
| 208.3 | .Having particular machine-cover detail | 235.3 | .Seat storable within cabinet |
| 208.4 | .Portable | 235.4 | .Component rearrangeable to form seat |
| 208.5 | FOR SEWING MACHINE | 235.5 | .Cabinet with seat structure |
| 208.6 | .Portable | 235.6 | ..Cabinet forming armrest |
| 209 | LABORATORY, DENTAL, BARBER OR MEDICAL | 235.7 | ..Cabinet forming backrest |
| 210 | MASK OR SCREEN TYPE | 235.8 | .Diverse cabinet adapted to be mounted upon seat |
| 210.5 | WITH SIFTER | 235.9 | .Diverse seat and cabinet fixedly connected (e.g., classroom desk) |
| 211 | WITH DEPOSIT AND COLLECTION COMPARTMENT | 236 | WITH HEATING, COOLING OR HEAT EXCHANGE MEANS |
| 212 | .Movably mounted | | COMBINED |
| 213 | FORAMINOUS EXTERIOR WALL | | ROOM CORNER TYPE |
| 400 | SPACED INSULATED WALL | 237 | WITH USER ACCOMMODATING RECESS |
| 401 | .Refrigerator cabinet | 238 | CONVERTIBLE |
| 402 | .Including exterior-access drawer | 239 | .To table only |
| 403 | .Including hot compartment | 240 | OUNTED IN WALL OR PANEL RECESS |
| 404 | .Including particular storage compartment | 241 | SELECTIVE DIVERSE CABINET SUPPORTS |
| 405 | .Closure structure | 242 | WITH CARRYING HANDLE |
| 405.1 | ...Having article support | 243 | OUNTED ON WALL, CEILING OR SPACED PANELS |
| 406 | ..Wall structure | 244 | .Movably mounted housing or compartment |
| 406.1 | ...Including means to relieve thermal stress | 245 | ..Vertically |
| 406.2 | ...Wall-ends connection | 246 | ..Pivots only |
| 407 | ...Refrigerating-zones divider | 247 | KNOCKDOWN OR SETUP TYPE |
| 407.1 |Having opening | 248 | .Foldable |
| 408 | ..Shelf or shelf-supporting structure | 257.1 | ..Flexible cardboard-type walls |
| 409 | .Fire-resistant cabinet | 258 | ...Slidable closure or guides |
| 410 | .Particular oven shelf, rack, or support therefore | 259 | ...Slidable compartment or guide |
| 215 | WITH LOCK OR LATCH SELECTOR-OPERATOR | 260 | ..Sidewalls hinged to rigid backwall |
| 216 | GANG-BAR TYPE LOCKING OR LATCHING MEANS | 261 | .Adjacent walls rigidly interlocked |
| 217 | .Concealed | 262 | .Opposite walls rigidly interlocked |
| 218 | ..With push or pull rod as operator | 263 | ..Interior tie members, externally accessible |
| 219 | ..With separable key as operator | 264 | .Skeletal frame |
| 220 | ..With closure as operator | 265 | ..Parallel panels connected by skeletal frame members |
| 221 | ..With movable compartment as operator | 265.1 | ...Parallel panels are vertically oriented |
| 222 | LATCH ACTUATED BY COMPONENT OR ITS LATCH | 265.2 | ..Free-standing in final configuration |
| 224 | WITH MIRROR | 265.3 | .Connecting panels |
| 225 | .Plural | 265.4 | .Removable panel |
| 226 | .Movably mounted | 265.5 | WITH CONTINUOUSLY LEVEL REVOLVABLE COMPONENTS |
| 227 | ..With, on, or forming, closure | 265.6 | .Continuously housed |
| 228 | WITH BASIN OR TUB | 266 | ..On flexible endless conveyor |
| 228.1 | .Having particular shelf or rack | 267 | .Interconnected with pivoted rigid housing wall |
| 229 | WITH LIQUID DRAIN, DUST COLLECTOR OR GUARD | 268 | HAVING A MOVABLE COMPARTMENT WITH IN-HOUSED COVER |
| 230 | WITH ERASABLE SURFACE (E.G., BLACKBOARD) | 269 | .Pivots movably compartment |
| 231 | WITH DRAFTING BOARD | 270.1 | .Horizontally movable compartment |
| 232 | WITH INKWELL | | |
| 233 | WITH BOOK SUPPORT | | |
| 234 | WITH EXHIBITOR, INDICATOR OR SAMPLE | | |
| 234.1 | .With contents indicia | 270.2 | |
| | | 270.3 | |

EXHIBIT C



Bracketed and Underlined Claims

Claim 1 (amended) - A tanning bed comprising in combination:

a plurality of modules selected from the group including a tanning bed, a canopy, a bed support, a canopy support, and a ballast assembly collectively defining components of said tanning bed,

and knock-down coupling means integral with said components for easily removing and assembling said components into an operational tanning bed.

Claim 8 (amended) - A tanning bed comprising in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, said components including a pair of spaced bench supports including a ballast housing interposed between said bench supports and means fixing said ballast housing to said bench supports in removable relationship thereto, wherein said bench supports cradle a bench in removable overlying relationship thereto, said bench provided with illumination means for tanning, and wherein said bench supports fasten to a [said] canopy and a pair of posts project upwardly from said bench supports in frictional telescoping relationship, said posts including a pivot that supports a link operatively coupled to said canopy and adapted to allow said link and said canopy to move from a first open position wherein a tanner can lie on the bed to a second closed position where said canopy is in overlying relationship with respect to said bed and said tanner, and gas shock means operatively coupled with said link and said post in a path of heat radiation whereupon gas within said shock elevates in temperature upon utilization of said bed increasing the effectiveness of said gas shock;

said [a] canopy operatively connected to said bench by removeable attachment means, said canopy provided with illumination means for tanning; and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed.



Pending Claims - July 12, 2002

Claim 1 - A tanning bed comprising in combination:

a plurality of modules selected from the group including a tanning bed, a canopy, a bed support, a canopy support, and a ballast assembly collectively defining components of said tanning bed,

and knock-down coupling means integral with said components for easily removing and assembling said components into an operational tanning bed.

Claim 2 - The bed of claim 1 wherein said components include a pair of spaced bench supports including a ballast housing interposed between said bench supports and means fixing said ballast housing to said bench supports in removable relationship thereto.

Claim 3 - The bed of claim 2 wherein said bench supports cradle a bench in removable overlying relationship thereto, said bench provided with illumination means for tanning.

Claim 4 - The bed of claim 3 including a canopy pivotally connected to said bench by removable attachment means, said canopy provided with illumination means for tanning.

Claim 5 - The bed of claim 4 wherein said ballast housing includes a pair of outwardly and downwardly projecting L-shaped legs which overlie and grasp portions of said bench supports.

Claim 6 - The bed of claim 5 wherein said ballast housing receives therewithin a plurality of ballast units formed as modules, each of said modules formed from choke ballasts oriented in series and terminating at a plug.

Claim 7 - The bed of claim 6 wherein the illumination means are a plurality of ultraviolet lights connected in series to said choke ballasts such that collectively said choke ballasts and said lights maintain current at a substantially constant level.

Claim 8 - A tanning bed comprising in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, said components including a pair of spaced bench supports including a ballast housing interposed between said bench supports and means fixing said ballast housing to said bench supports in removable relationship thereto, wherein said bench supports cradle a bench in removable overlying relationship thereto, said bench provided with illumination means for tanning, and wherein said bench supports fasten to a canopy and a pair of posts project upwardly from said bench supports in frictional telescoping relationship, said posts including a pivot that supports a link operatively coupled to said canopy and adapted to allow said link and said canopy to move from a first open position wherein a tanner can lie on the bed to a second closed position where said canopy is in overlying relationship with respect to said bed and said tanner, and gas shock means operatively coupled with said link and said post in a path of heat radiation whereupon gas within said shock elevates in temperature upon utilization of said bed increasing the effectiveness of said gas shock;

said canopy operatively connected to said bench by removable attachment means, said canopy provided with illumination means for tanning; and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed.

Claim 9 - The bed of claim 8 wherein said link is received within a hollow of said canopy, said canopy including an abutment which captures a latch projecting from said

link, said hollow including a bead which frictionally resides against a terminus of said link.

Claim 10 - A tanning bed comprising in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, said components including a pair of spaced bench supports including a ballast housing interposed between said bench supports and means fixing said ballast housing to said bench supports in removeable relationship thereto, wherein said bench supports cradle a bench in removeable overlying relationship thereto, said bench provided with illumination means for tanning and wherein said bench attaches to said bench supports on one edge thereof by means of a projection on said bench support being received within a complementally formed slit on said bench, said slit provided with adequate clearance to allow articulation of said bench about said projection;

a canopy operatively connected to said bench by removeable attachment means, said canopy provided with illumination means for tanning; and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed.

Claim 11 - The bed of claim 10 wherein an opposite side of said bench includes another slit which receives a hook supported on said bench support, said hook having releasable fastening means to release said bench relative to said bench support.

Claim 12 - The bed of claim 10 including a stand member which is interposed between said bench support and said bench to allow said bench to remain in an elevated secure position above said bench supports.

Claim 13 - The bed of claim 4 wherein a cover is provided on a concave surface of said bench and is fixed within a peripheral ledge on said bed circumscribing said

cover, said cover residing on said ledge, and a plurality of fins interposed between clusters of illumination means and underlying said cover, said cover frictionally held from said bench by means of gaskets.

Claim 14 - The bed of claim 4 wherein said canopy and said bench includes a plurality of air passageways extending longitudinally along said canopy and said bench providing cooling air from end walls of said canopy and said bench through filters located at said end walls and slits in said canopy and said bench to exhaust air by a fan mounted adjacent said slits and controlled by a temperature sensing means.

Claim 15 - The bed of claim 14 including a zone of increased radiation disposed on said canopy and oriented to address a face area of said user, said zone of increased ultraviolet radiation formed from a plurality of clusters of high output ultraviolet radiation, each cluster constrained to operate within a boxed-shaped well secured to an inverted support tray and separated from a tanner by a window.

Claim 16 - The bed of claim 15 including a plurality of fans oriented upstream from said zone of increased ultraviolet radiation to augment air flow in the face area.

Claim 17 - A tanning bed comprising in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, said components including bench supports, a bed, and a canopy, wherein said bench supports fasten to said canopy and a pair of posts project upwardly from said bench supports in frictional telescoping relationship, said posts including a pivot that supports a link operatively coupled to said canopy and adapted to allow said link and said canopy to move from a first open position wherein a tanner can lie on the bed to a second closed position where said canopy is in overlying relationship with respect to said bed and said tanner, and gas shock means operatively coupled with said link and

said post in a path of heat radiation whereupon gas within said shock elevates in temperature upon utilization of said bed increasing the effectiveness of said gas shock; and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed.

Claim 18 - A tanning bed comprising in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, said components includes a bench and bench supports; and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed, wherein said knock-down coupling means includes attachment of said bench to said bench supports on one edge thereof by means of a projection on said bench support being received within a complementally formed slit on said bench, said slit provided with adequate clearance to allow articulation of said bench about said projection.

Claim 19 - A tanning bed comprising in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, said components including a bench and a bench support; and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed, wherein said knock-down coupling means includes a slit on the side of said bench which receives a hook supported on said bench support, said hook having releasable fastening means to release said bench relative to said bench support.

Claim 20 - A tanning bed, comprising, in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed wherein said components include illumination means; and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed, wherein said knock-down coupling means includes a removable cover for said illumination means, said cover having air channeling means integrated therewith.

Claim 21 - A tanning bed, comprising, in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed, said knock-down coupling means including integrally-formed panels, wherein said integrally-formed panels are independently removable.

Claim 22 - A tanning bed, comprising, in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed wherein a bench is attached to bench supports on one edge thereof by means of a projection on said bench support being received within a complementally formed slit on said bench, said slit formed as removable cap on said bench.

Claim 23 - A tanning bed, comprising, in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed wherein a canopy is attached to a bench on one edge thereof by means of a projection on said bench support being received within a complementally formed slit on said bench, said slit formed as removable cap on said canopy.

Claim 24 - A tanning bed, comprising, in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, wherein said components include plural illumination means having differing characteristics, each said illumination means being independently removable; and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed.

Claim 25 - A tanning bed, comprising, in combination:

a plurality of modules collectively defining components of said tanning bed, wherein said components include ventilation means whereby air is drawn into the tanning bed and exhausting means whereby said air is exhausted out of the tanning bed in a direction away from a tanner; and

knock-down coupling means for assembling said components into an operational tanning bed.

Claim 26 - The tanning bed of claim 25 wherein said components include a bench and a canopy, and wherein said ventilation means and said exhausting means operate independently in said bench and said canopy.

Claim 27 - The tanning bed of claim 25 wherein said components include a bench and a canopy, and wherein said ventilation means includes removable housings mounted on exterior extremities of said bench and/or said canopy.

Claim 28 - The tanning bed of claim 27 wherein said removable housing comprises a removable filter system.

Claim 29 - The tanning bed of claim 28 wherein said removable filter system includes an independently removable filter screen located inside said removable housing.